

DAILY CONFEDERATE.

A. M. GORMAN, Editor.

WEDNESDAY, January 27, 1864.

Office of THE CONFEDERATE, on Fayetteville street, second door South of Lomero's Bookstore.

A Convention.—The Legislature.

In reference to a movement now being made in this State to call a Convention, we deem it not inappropriate to recall public attention to the action of the Legislature, as expressed in certain resolutions which we give below, with the votes upon the same in the two Houses.

On the 27th of November, 1862, the following resolutions were introduced in the House of Commons:—The rules were suspended, and they passed their three several readings, and were sent to the Senate for concurrence, where, also, on the same day, similar proceedings were had and the resolutions adopted—thus passing both Houses unanimously. See House Journal page 43. Senate Journal page 49.

Resolved, That the Confederate States of America have the means and the will to sustain and perpetuate the Government they have established, and to that end, North Carolina is determined to contribute all of her power and resources.

Resolved, That the separation between the Confederate States and the United States is final, and that the people of North Carolina will never consent to reunion at any time or upon any terms.

Resolved, That we have full confidence in the ability and patriotism of His Excellency President Davis, and that his administration is entitled to the cordial support of all patriotic citizens.

Resolved, That we heartily approve of the policy for the conduct of the war, set forth by His Excellency Governor Vance, in his inaugural address and message to the General Assembly, and that he ought to be unanimously supported in the manly and patriotic stand he has taken for our independence. Ratified 10th Dec, 1862. See Laws 1862-63, page 43.

On the 27th of January, 1863, Mr. Love introduced certain resolutions of a similar character, when Mr. Grissom offered a substitute, which after having been amended on motion of Mr. Amis, was adopted, and then passed the House as follows:—

WHEREAS various slanderous reports have been circulated both in the State and out of it, reflecting upon the loyalty of the members of this Legislature and the people of this State, and ascribing to them hostility to the Confederate Government and a desire to reconstruct the Union; Therefore be it unanimously

Resolved, That as the representatives of the people, and in our behalf as individual citizens of the State, we protest against and denounce these accusations as utterly false in letter and in spirit, as calculated to misrepresent the sentiments of those who have never faltered in the support of all constitutional measures for the prosecution of the war, and as tending to produce jealousies and heart-burnings among a people who have sealed their devotion to the cause of Southern Independence with their blood, upon the proudest battlefield of the Revolution; that the charges of a desire on the part of this Legislature, or any portion of it, to conflict with the Confederate Government, or to embarrass the President in the prosecution of the war, is grossly untrue, libelous and slanderous; that we hereby pledge ourselves most heartily and emphatically, to the most vigorous constitutional war policy, promising in the name of North Carolina, the most liberal contribution of men and money, and the support of all, and protesting against any settlement of the struggle which does not secure the entire independence of the Confederate States of America.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to communicate a copy of these resolutions to the Governors of the several States of the Confederacy, and also to our own Senators and Representatives in Congress, to be laid before their respective bodies.

The yeas were as follows:

Messrs. Allison, Albritton, Allford, Amis, Avera, Barndhart, Barringer, Beall, Babbity, Berry, Best, Bizzell, Bryan, Burgin, Burns, Bynum, Carpenter, Carson, Cowles, Craig, Davis, Fleming, Flynt, Felt, Fowle, Foy, Gentry, Greene, Grissom, Hampton, Harris, of Chatham, Harrison, Hawes, Henderson, Hays, of Henderson, Hendon, Hollingsworth, Hopper, Howard, Horton, Ingram, Jenkins, Joyner, Judd, Keener, Kelly, Kerner, Laws, Long, Lyle, Mann of Hyde, Mann of Pasquotank, McAllen, McCormick, McKay, McNeill, McRae, Parks, Patterson, Pearce, Richardson, Riddick, Rhodes, Robbins, Russ, Sheple, S. Sherwood, Shober, Smith of Washington, Spruill, Stancil, Vann, Walldell, Waller, Walser, Watson, Wellborn, Williams, Woods, Young of Iredell, and Young of Yadon.—84 Yeas.—Messrs. Brown, Cobb, Costner, Crawford, Gilliam, Hodges, Lemmonds, Love and Rives.—9. See House Journal, pp. 175 to 190.

On the same day the resolutions were sent to Senate and passed by the following vote:

Yeas.—Messrs. Argell, Bagley, Blount, Brown, Dickson, Dickinson, Ellis, Eare, Fairson, Graham, Harris, Jarrett, Neal, Lassiter, Leitch, Lindsay, Lane, Neal, Patrick, Powell, Simpson, Sharp, Slaughter, Smith of Anson, Smith of Macon, Smith of Stanly, Taylor of Chatham, Taylor of Nash, Warren, Whitford, Wiggins, Wooley, and Wright.—33 Yeas.—Messrs. Carroway, Copeland, Drake, Murrill, White and Young.—6. See Senate Journal, pp. 28 and 29—21 Session.

Of the nine gentlemen in the House and six in the Senate who voted against these resolutions, it is due to them to say that they voted in the negative, as was explained at the time, not because they opposed so much of the resolutions as pledged themselves and the State to a vigorous defensive war until the independence of the Confederate States was obtained, but because they thought the State and the Legislature would best consult their dignity by not noticing such attacks as those recited in the preamble, and because they did not concur in certain facts set forth. These gentlemen are well known for their devotion to our cause—truer and more loyal men are not to be found in the State or out of it. And so the resolutions, so far as they pledge the State and the Members of the Assembly to a vigor-

ous defensive war, and to the acceptance of no terms short of our independence, may be truly said to have passed the Legislature without a dissenting voice.

Our readers have lately seen that efforts are now making to get up a Convention in this State. For what purpose? It is believed by those best informed on the subject, that the purpose is to take the State out of the Southern Confederacy, and of course to carry her back, if possible, into the old Union. Many do not hesitate to declare that such is their wish and purpose, though the leaders in the movement are more prudent and reticent as to their ultimate intentions.

The bill has been sent in motion in the county of Johnston, and resolutions adopted, one of which threatens to break up the Union of the Confederate States by the withdrawal of North Carolina, on account of some very shallow pretences; and another resolution requests the Governor to call back the Legislature at an early day, to the end that it may call a Convention. We have not the remotest idea that Governor Vance will hearken to any such request. Nor do we believe that the Members of the Legislature could be induced to engage in any such movement. We do not see how they could do it, without shame and disgrace to themselves and the State, after the solemn declarations and pledges made in the foregoing resolutions, and which they directed Governor Vance to send to all of our sister States, and to our Members of Congress to be laid before that body.

No such movement as this has been made in any other State, and least of all ought it to have been made here. If we do not mean to live up to these resolutions, far better would it have been for the character of the State and those concerned in their passage, that they had never been passed. Let it not be said that North Carolina is a sovereign State and has a right to declare herself such and to set up for herself. Let our people remember, if this were the only purpose, that there is such a thing as honor and good faith, and that we have solemnly pledged both, first by joining the Southern Confederacy, and again by the passage of the foregoing resolutions.

But suppose North Carolina were to secede and set up for herself, as a sovereign and independent State—how long would she remain so? What is to become of her? Would Lincoln acknowledge her independence any more than that of the United Confederate States? Assuredly not. But left without the aid of her Southern sisters, she would be overrun and at the mercy of the Yankees in less than six weeks. Some may desire this. We hope they are few; but few or many, it behooves the reflecting men among us to consider, to pause, and not suffer themselves and the State to be hurried into ruin and disgrace.

Good News from our Armies.—Lee's army, though not so large as it ought to be, is in fine plight. It is large enough, too, to send home on a begging tour for more men. Food is yet ample, clothing abundant, shoes plentiful enough, and the spirits of the men all that could be wished. The Richmond Whig says whoever has the blues, the hippos, the negrims or the hysterics, need only go to Lee's army to be cured instantly. All who have been to that army agree that a visit there is an infallible remedy for despondency. Officers who go to Richmond make haste to get back to the Rappahannock. They declare that the croaking and gloom of that city demoralize them.

Judging from what it has done of late, and is still doing, Longstreet's army is also in fine condition. Some of the men have suffered severely for the want of blankets and shoes, but the people and the Government have come to their relief, and complaints have ceased. Any way, naked or not, Longstreet's men are plucky and stout enough to drive the enemy to within four miles of Knoxville, as the reader will see by referring to the column of telegrams.

RE-ENLISTED FOR THE WAR.—On the 17th instant, Strahl's gallant brigade of Tennesseeans, in the army of General Johnston, held an enthusiastic meeting in front of their quarters, and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The officers and men of Strahl's brigade do this day resolve that they will re-enlist for the war, determined never to lay down their arms until their homes are rescued from the enemy, and the Confederacy is permanently established as one of the nations of the earth."

In order that there might be no doubt of their earnestness, each man signed his name to the resolution. At this time, says the Richmond Whig, such action on the part of our noble soldiers furnishes a happy augury of the successful issue of our unceasing struggle for independence, and is eminently worthy of the resolution of thanks which unanimously passed the House of Representatives, Saturday.

The manifestation of such a spirit does not look like demoralization or the readiness to give up the contest which the Yankees often boast as existing in our armies, but is in striking and refreshing contrast with the bragadoos of our enemies, and the enormous bonanzas which they are compelled to bring to the assistance of the flagging spirit of their own troops, whose terms of enlistment are about to expire.

A number of letters have been received at this office, making complaint about not receiving the State Journal after having sent the money for it. We know nothing, of course, about such matters. We send our paper to all credited on the books beyond the present time, and this is all we can do.

We find the Mail books of the old establishment in rather a confused state, which may lead to some mismailing. As soon as possible we shall have new books made out, when any present irregularities will, we trust, be obviated. We are doing the best we can, and bespeak the forbearance of our subscribers for any delinquencies that may occur.

Judge Battle's Opinion.

We were gratified to see the following card from Judge Battle in the last Standard. It is his opinion on the subject, and that while he has shown commendable spirit in enforcing the law, he has also manifested a like disposition to sift the evidence in all cases brought before him, to the end that justice may be also done to the Government. We hope that Judge Manly will also make known his opinion, in order that the point disputed may be settled by a majority of the Supreme Court, for as the law lately passed by our Legislature makes the decision of a Judge final in any particular case and allows no appeals, but forbids the arrest of a party a second time, it is of the utmost importance, that disputed points should be settled by the Supreme Court. Unless that is done, no matter if every Judge in the State be one should hold that certain persons were not entitled to discharges, it would amount to nothing, as these parties can select the Judge favorable to them, and thus obtain discharges. It was a great blunder in the Legislature to pass such a law and allow no means for the review of decisions made by single Judges.

[From the Standard.]

Habeas Corpus.

In an article which appears in the Fayetteville Observer of Dec. 21st, 1863, signed "Clivic," there is the following paragraph: "And it is the opinion of at least one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, (upon the analogy, as I suppose, of the principle decided in the matter of H. C. Graham, as reported in the appendix to Jones' law, Vol. 8, No. 2, June Term, 1861), that a soldier who is absent from his command without leave, being subject to trial and punishment by a court martial for said offence, cannot, while so absent, be heard upon an application for his discharge from service." I believe that I am the Judge to whom allusion is made, because I had so decided in more than one case, and as I find in your paper of the 16th instant, an opinion of Chief Justice Pearson to the contrary, given in the case of Myrick, I feel that those who have been affected by my decision, if not the public generally, have a right to know the reasons upon which my opinion was founded.

In Graham's case it was held by all the Judges of the Supreme Court, that an enlisted soldier could not, either by himself or by his guardian, be allowed to raise the question as to the invalidity of his enlistment on account of his infancy and the want of his guardian's consent, while he was under arrest for a breach of military duty; and the Judges, for this reason, declined to give, or even to intimate an opinion upon the merits of the case. The principle upon which the preliminary objection was sustained, is to be a soldier as a conscript, he placed upon the Chief Justice. It is as follows: "If such were not the law, all order and discipline in the army would be subverted. Would it be tolerated, that one should insinuate himself into the condition of a soldier, and when by the disobedience of orders or other violation of duty, the safety of the whole army has been endangered, evade the military jurisdiction by being heard to impeach the validity of his enlistment?"

Under an act of the Confederate Congress, a man may be made a soldier by conscription as well as become one by enlistment. When conscripted, and having acted as a soldier for months by receiving pay, &c., and obtaining a furlough as such, would not all order and discipline in the army be subverted, if he were allowed, while a deserter or absent without leave, to raise the question as to the legality of his conscription? Why should a man, claimed to be a soldier as a conscript, be placed upon a better footing than one claimed as a volunteer? If the principle settled in Graham's case is worth any thing, it appears to me to be just as applicable to the one case as the other. Both the volunteer and the conscript are *prima facie* soldiers, and if they desert, or are absent from service without leave, they ought, in my opinion, to be treated alike. It is the effect of a preliminary objection of this kind, when sustained, to prevent an enquiry into the case upon what would otherwise be its merits, and as a defaulting volunteer ought not to be heard to impeach the validity of his enlistment, so a defaulting conscript should not be heard to call in question the legality of his conscription.

But it is said that the case of Dixon decided at the last term of the Supreme Court is a direct authority against my position. I do not think so, because to the best of my recollection, the preliminary objection was not urged by the counsel for the government. The case was so plain against the petitioner upon its merits that I do not think the Court deemed it necessary to file any other than a mere formal opinion. At any rate, Mr. Jones has not reported it among the cases of *habeas corpus* decided at the term; and in the short reference to it made in Guyer's case, there is not a single fact stated to show that the preliminary objection could have been taken. (See Jones' cases of *habeas corpus* at page 73.)

I have thus briefly set forth the reasons upon which my opinion in the matter under consideration was formed; and I have only to add that the case in which I made my first decision was from Moore county, and was before me in the month of July or August last, and as I have not been convinced of having committed any error in making the decision, I shall feel bound to adhere to it until it shall be overruled by the Supreme Court.

WILL H. BATTLE.

Suppose the proposed State Convention should be called, and North Carolina should "assert her sovereignty and set up for herself," what will she do, and what will her citizens have to do, then, To suppose that she can maintain her sovereignty and be a separate and independent Government, is to suppose an absurdity. The Northern Government will no more recognize the independence of North Carolina than it will the entire Confederacy. What then? Will she attempt to win her independence, single handed, against the North? If so, she will have a much harder struggle than with her Southern sisters to help her, and will indeed have to bring her "last man" into the field, and expend her "last dollar." So those who expect to escape the war by this ruse, will be sadly disappointed. But suppose she unites with the Northern Government, of course North Carolina will be required to furnish her quota of troops to conquer the other Southern States! Is there any man in North Carolina base enough to desire such a change in the attitude of the State? It is utterly impossible to get the State out of the fight. She must take a hand in some way. Shall it be with our noble sister States, with whom we have battled for three long years? Shall it be single handed and alone? Or shall it be with the North and against the South?

The Currency.

The Richmond Examiner of Friday last, has the following encouraging article relative to the improvement of the Currency:

The assessors of the first general Confederate tax are now drawing towards a conclusion of their labours, and if the accounts we hear of the results in particular cities and counties be true, and if these results be a fair sample of what will be realized in the Confederacy at large, the aggregate tax must be very considerable; probably not less than three or four hundred millions of dollars. The money tax in Lynchburg is stated to be more than two millions of dollars. The same tax in Washington county, Virginia, bordering on Tennessee, exclusive of the tax in kind, will be upwards of half a million. At this rate, Virginia will pay, in money and taxes in kind, very nearly, if not quite, a hundred millions of dollars. Georgia is larger and more populous by half than the portion of Virginia not overrun by the enemy, and will, doubtless, if these data be true, pay more than a hundred millions; possibly as much as a hundred millions in money. If the accounts we have alluded to be correct, great pains should be taken to make known the fact; for the Government would, in that case, be fully able to carry on the war without a further manufacture of paper money, and the Confederate currency would at once begin to exhibit a rapid appreciation. The question of our ability to maintain the army and carry on the war to any extent of time would be settled, and Confederate credit be established at home on an enduring and impregnable basis.

If three hundred millions of currency are collected by the tax and paid into the Treasury by the middle of Spring, a wonderful revolution will be effected in prices, and speculations begin to pay as heavy losses as they have been paying heavy profits. A very large class of producers, not having ready cash to meet their taxes, will disperse at greatly reduced rates, their hoarded grain, meat and forage; thus increasing to the army and to non-producers the supply of the necessities of life. Many will take themselves, as of old, to the banks for loans, and those institutions will be able to pay out the Confederate currency which they have handled so reluctantly.

Contrary to the general expectation, the tax will not be paid without much difficulty by the masses of the people. They have now very little to sell, and they pursued the short-sighted policy, while Confederate money was in their hands, of getting rid of it at extravagant loss. Just at the time when everybody will want full supplies of Confederate money, suddenly it will be found very difficult to procure. There is not enough of this money in the hands of the general public to meet the taxes. Like everything else, it has been engrossed by speculators; and this baneful class will have it in their power to drive harder bargains with the people, in the capacity of usurers, than they have done in that of speculators in commodities. For this reason the new tax law of Congress should lay a heavy rate on money loaned. The great majority of our present Confederate capitalists have come by their money by foul means. They deserve no mercy at the hands of the people or the people's representatives. The measure that they have meted to others, the same should be meted to themselves.

Heavy taxes have the two-fold benefit of replenishing the public treasury and drawing forth into market the entire disposable produce of the country. They have the evil effect of placing the general population very much at the mercy of usurers. For this reason, the tax laws should lay heavy duties on loans of money and enforce certain forfeiture upon violations of the usury laws.

If Congress will absolutely prohibit the further manufacture of paper money, the revenue laws which it has enacted and is now maturing, will effectually cure the diseases of the currency. Enact such a prohibition; lay heavy taxes; make the business of money brokers a penitentiary offence; crush out usurers; encourage regular, legitimate banking; and in twelve months Treasury notes will be the most popular currency in the Confederacy.

THE ADVANCE.—A short time since this vessel, which has made so many successful trips with army stores for North Carolina, in attempting to run into the harbor at Wilmington, was pursued by the enemy and run aground. We are happy to learn, however, that both ship and cargo are now safe. The Advance is at her wharf taking in a return cargo.

TAKE COURAGE.—We are standing upon the edge of a crisis which calls for the best strength and the noblest energies of our people. Our situation is by no means desperate, yet it is one which demands of men to pause and reflect. Drifting as we now go heedlessly down the current, our fate is inevitable; but let our country up and face the stern reality—let dreams be dispelled, and false hopes be buried—let the busy note of preparation ring through the now stagnated country, and we have no fear for the future. The next campaign is the hinge on which may swing our destinies, and it is for us to say whether we shall be ushered into the presence of events guided with the halcyon of success, or darkened with the shadows of defeat. If our people will be but true to themselves, says the Columbia Carolinian, true to the instincts which have permeated the breasts of every nation who have fought for and won their liberty, and true to the great principles which at the beginning of the war stood at high water mark in our country, we shall have no result. God is by our side, though he fights with visor down. Our cause is truth itself, and truth can never fail. Our physical strength is abundant only for the moment. Power, a mighty power, is still latent in the strong arm and will of the people. Bring forth this young giant, in-fill him, his heart the genius of morality and religion, unite faith with labor, and prayer with good works, and we believe that the Almighty will again shower down upon us those wonderful blessings which in the past have made our nation a by-word for greatness throughout the world.

HOARDING.—We have information from a gentleman of unquestionable veracity, that many of the farmers of Roanoke county are unpatriotically hoarding up flour instead of putting it upon the market to supply the necessities of the country. It is stated that the most of them are keeping on hand three years' supplies, refusing to let either the Government or the people have it. For instance, where a farmer previously retained ten barrels of flour for family use, he now retains thirty; and so, we have no doubt, it is with other necessities, such as corn, bacon, &c. Such a course as this is reprehensible in the extreme, and we invite the attention of the Government agents in that section to the matter.—Lynchburg Republican.

Is it not so in North Carolina?

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. S. Tinsman, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

Congressional.

Richmond, Jan. 26. The House passed the Senate bill to appoint an agent of the Postoffice Department west of the Mississippi, with a slight amendment. A resolution was offered that the bill to continue in service during the war all persons now in service, be hereafter considered and acted upon in open session. An open vote on the resolution was asked for. The yeas and nays were called, but the call was not sustained, and no vote was taken. A resolution was offered that in the judgment of the House it is earnestly desirable that in order to secure comfortable subsistence for our valiant army, and allay the discontent known to exist in certain localities, that the present Commissary General be removed. The resolution was laid on the table—yeas 46 nays 20. Mr. Gartrell, from the Judiciary Committee, reported back the Senate bill to fix the time of meeting of next Congress, with the recommendation that the House concur in the bill, which fixes the first Monday in May. A motion was made to insert the 19th of February. Another motion was made to postpone the consideration of the whole matter till the 15th of February. The question was taken on the last motion by division—yeas 29, nays 30. The House then went into secret session.

In the Senate a communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to the public debt, in response to a late resolution. In consequence of not knowing the precise amount of notes funded, the liabilities of the government cannot be accurately stated. The funded debt is \$297,371,650; call certificates, \$89,206,770; interest bearing notes, \$100,466,460; non-interest bearing notes \$720,899,095; small notes, over \$1,000,000. As near as can be estimated, the whole liability of the government, of every kind, is about \$900,000,000.

The Number of Deceased Soldiers.

Richmond, Jan. 25. The number of soldiers that have been killed and died in the service from each State may now be approximately stated from the following: To 31st Dec. last the following number of applications had been filed in the 2d Auditor's office by widows and orphans of deceased soldiers: Virginia 4,945; North Carolina 8,281; South Carolina 4,517; Georgia 9,054; Alabama 8,060; Mississippi 3,270; Texas 1,224; Tennessee 871; Florida 561; Arkansas 861, and Louisiana 327.

General Order No. 89, issued 13th October, 1862, requires that commanders of companies, immediately on the death of a soldier, shall make out and forward to the 2d Auditor a descriptive list showing the name, when and where enlisted, from what cause he died, and when last paid.

Surgeons in charge of Hospitals are also required to make similar reports of all soldiers who die. The following had been reported up to the 31st Dec. last: Virginia 5943; North Carolina 7,962; South Carolina 2,900; Georgia 6,277; Alabama 8,987; Tennessee 2,839; Mississippi 5,367; Louisiana 3,139; Florida 1,119; Arkansas 1,648, and Texas 6,377. These returns show a great deal of negligence by Captains and Surgeons in reporting the deaths of soldiers.

Later from the North, &c.

Richmond, Jan. 25. New York papers to the 18th received. War news unimportant.

In the Senate, on Saturday, Trumbull offered an amendment to the enrollment bill, requesting the President to call out one hundred thousand men for one hundred days, with the object of driving the rebels out of Virginia. After debate the amendment was rejected.

The Ariel, from Aspinwall, on the 18th, brings accounts of a horrible conflagration at Santiago, on the 8th ultimo, being the last day of the celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Church of the Company of Jesus was filled to overflowing, mainly by women and children, to witness the magnificent illumination of the edifice, and to participate in the closing exercises. The church was heavily hung with drapery and lighted with twenty thousand lamps. Not less than three thousand persons were present, including the elite of the capital. Suddenly the gas pipe burst, and almost instantly the entire building was in flames. The poor creatures inside found it impossible, through insufficient means of exit, to escape, and in less than fifteen minutes twenty-five hundred persons perished. The conduct of the priests is censured without stint.

The Vanderbilt arrived at New York from a long and successful cruise after the Alabama. Gold 157 1/2.

The trial of Forde, indicted for the murder of Dixon, commenced in this city to-day.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

Richmond, Jan. 25. Northern papers to the 19th received. In the House of Representatives, on the 18th, Dawson of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution to the effect that the war is not waged for conquest, and requesting the President to issue a proclamation that when any State in insurrection shall submit to the Federal government, hostilities against her shall cease, and such State be protected against all interference with local laws and institutions—tabled, yeas 79, nays 58. Mr. Cox offered a resolution to refer the exchange of prisoners to a Board of Commissioners—tabled, yeas 91, nays 55. Mr. Smith of Kentucky offered strong war resolutions. Adopted—yeas 112, nays 16.

In the Senate the resolution for the expulsion of Davis was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Gold 168 and 169.

From Northern Virginia.

ORANGE C. H., Jan. 25. Lt. Stringfellow captured on the 22d, between Warrenton and Germantown, a detachment of 5 men, with a brigade cavalry mail, also some arms, equipments and horses of the prisoners.

Two prisoners, captured by the Prince William Cavalry, near Bristow Station, on the 20th, arrived here to-day. All quiet in front.

From East Tennessee.

SEBASTIANVILLE, Jan. 23. Advice from the front very encouraging. Our cavalry were within four miles of Knoxville, and have captured five hundred beef cattle, one hundred wagons, and a large amount of property.

From the North, &c.

MOBILE, Jan. 25. The Evening News has a special dispatch from Comer, with Northern dates to the 21st. The steamer Ariel has arrived at New York. The Cathedral at Santiago, Chili, was burned on the 15th.

8th; cause explosion of gas pipe—two thousand lives lost.

Twelve transports with troops went down the Mississippi a few days ago. Also Sherman and staff—destination unknown.

From the Southwest.

PASCOGUA, Jan. 25. Gentlemen who left the neighborhood of Covington, La., on the 15th, say, that on the 7th, two of the enemy's gunboats and six transports, schooners appeared off the mouth of the river, and commenced shelling the marsh, when the Confederate pickets, seven men under charge of a Sergeant, started from Madisonville in a skiff on a tour of observation and were supposed to have been captured—the Sergeant being the only one known to have escaped. The fleet then proceeded up the river, took possession of Madisonville and four saw mills which our forces neglected destroying—they threw out pickets on Covington road within two miles of that town, also on Madisonville road on the east side of the river.

Our informant was at Covington on the 7th and started for Madisonville on the same night, in company with John Pollock and Frank Peters. Being ignorant of the near approach of the enemy, the two latter were taken prisoners, but our informant escaped unhurt, though repeatedly fired at. He estimates the enemy's force at not more than two or three hundred. They are engaged in raising the hulls of several vessels sunk in the river by our authorities.

Our force, at the time, consisted of one company of Greenlee's Sharpshooters, stationed at Covington, which withdrew towards Franklinton.

Our informant represents the trade in cotton carried on between Amite Summit and other places, on New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, and Baton Rouge, as being very extensive and without molestation.

Four gunboats in sight yesterday—three off Round Island by the side of another. Others proceeded towards Ship Island.

From Charleston.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 26. Several shells fired at the city since last report. Enemy engaged all day in hauling ammunition to Fort Gregg and Cumming's Point batteries.

Considerable activity has been observed among the fleet. Three monitors have anchored inside, between Cumming's Point battery and Fort Sumter. No other change of importance.

From Mobile.

MOBILE, Jan. 26. Banks ordered an election for a Convention on the first Monday in April. Convention to meet first Monday in May.

Register and Advertiser by special correspondence, have received Northern dates to the 24th. Another plot to release the prisoners John Johnson's Island, by rebels in Canada, has been discovered, and two companies of British troops sent to Windsor opposite Detroit.

It is reported that Quantrell, with 1,500 men are now at Carthage, Louisiana, below Vicksburg.

The Florida has been repaired and sailed from Bristol.

Vera Cruz advices of the 2d inst., say, that in the fight of Dec. 17, Morera (French) captured eleven cannon and one thousand prisoners. Juarez escaped to Monterey.

From Tennessee.

RUSSELLVILLE, Jan. 26. Our cavalry still in the vicinity of Knoxville. Their captures during the recent retreat sums up 800 cattle, 500 wagons, two battoas loaded with crackers, tobacco, and several hundred barrels of flour.

Reconnoissance in the direction of Tazewell yesterday by Major Day, found the Yankees strongly fortified there, and in considerable force. Twenty-eight of our wagons were captured on Friday, whilst foraging beyond French Broad.

The cars ran to Greenville yesterday and will reach here Saturday.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

RUSSELLVILLE, Jan. 26. There is no change to report in the condition of affairs in this department. The wagons captured by the enemy recently, amount to but 20.

Weather clear and very pleasant.

Confederate Congress.

Richmond, Jan. 26. In the House, the resolution concerning the 15th Tennessee regiment, on re-enlisting for the war, presented by the Speaker, was ordered to be printed.

The bill fixing the time for the meeting of next Congress, was taken up.

Mr. Miles, Chairman of the Military Committee, appealed to the House, stating that highly important bills passed by the House in secret session and sent to the Senate, had not been taken up by that body, and these, with matters of the greatest possible moment to the country now before the committee still unacted on, were more than the present Congress could properly deliberate and act upon before it expired; and urged that in these perilous times there should be no interregnum in the sessions of Congress.

A motion to insert 22d February was rejected—yeas 32, nays 44. The bill then agreed to as passed by the Senate, for Congress to meet the 1st Monday in May next, and now awaits the President's signature.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

Richmond, Jan. 26. Dispatches and other information that large numbers of Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee troops in Lee's and Johnston's armies are re-enlisting for the war, presented this morning in the heretofore determined never to abandon the field till the last vanguard is driven from our soil, were unanimously adopted.

Resolutions heretofore reported by the Committee on military affairs, relative to the office of Quartermaster General, were taken up and adopted yeas 15, nays 6.

The previous report that these resolutions were adopted on the day they were presented by the committee, was erroneous—the reporter being misinformed.

New Advertisements.

Notice.—Is hereby given that on Saturday, the 30th inst. I shall attend at the Court House to distribute the bags placed in my hands for the purchase of the Rock salt. All who have bags there will please attend.

THOS. G. WHITAKER.

2-2t Salt Commissioner for Wake Co.

A Grand Ball will come off at the Collins House, Kittrell's Depot, on the night of Thursday the 4th of February next, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Hospital Fund of this State. Terms of admission \$20 per head.

D. McD. LINDSAY.

Proprietor.

The Sale of the Real Estate of